

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 19.11.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**HARDSHIPS OF HAJIS .**

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Shri Mohammed Adeb

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Haj pilgrims have been facing hardships in the past;
- (b) if so, the steps that have been taken to ensure that they do not face any problem this year; and
- (c) the details of coordination being made with different agencies in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) Yes. Some hardships were reported and duly addressed.

(b) Efforts have been made by the Government that only those buildings are hired which are equipped with all amenities required for comfortable stay of the pilgrims in Makkah and Madinah; to enable the pilgrims to get their Haj flights from an airport nearer to their place of stay in India, two more embarkation points viz. Mangalore and Ranchi have been added to this year to the already existing 17 embarkation points and wherever possible larger capacity aircraft are made available for the travel of the pilgrims;

(c) Haj management is a complex matter where perfect coordination among all the agencies involved is very important. The accommodation for the pilgrims in Makkah and Madinah is arranged by the Haj Committee of India and Consulate General of India, Jeddah, by selecting the buildings with the approval of the Building Selection Teams and Building Selection Committee Teams sent by the State Haj Committees and the Haj Committee of India. Similarly, the Ministry of External Affairs in coordination with the Haj Committee of India makes arrangements for issue of international passports and procuring Haj visas for the pilgrims. The Embassy of India, Riyadh, in coordination with Consulate General of India, Jeddah, and the Haj Committee of India makes arrangements related to transportation etc. of the pilgrims within Saudi Arabia. The Ministry of External Affairs in coordination with Consulate General of India makes arrangements for health care of the pilgrims and also makes other administrative and logistic arrangements for the stay of pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. The Ministry of Civil Aviation makes arrangements for the air travel of the pilgrims between India and Saudi Arabia.